

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 10684 141620Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 OES-03 TRSE-00 IO-10 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 141436Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 513

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DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS VENEZUELA

1. OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ALEJANDRO ORFILA COMPLETED A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA OCT 5 DURING WHICH HE MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND HELD MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM AND OTHER GOV OFFICIALS. ORFILA'S TWO MEETINGS WITH PEREZ LASTED A TOTAL OF TWO AND A HALF HOURS, DURING WHICH TIME THEY WERE ENTIRELY ALONE. ORFILA ALSO MET JOINTLY WITH THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORACION VENEZOLANA DE GUAYANA TO DISCUSS OAS ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELA.

2. ORFILA DISCUSSED THE OAS'S FUTURE ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE DURING COURTESY VISITS TO THE MAJOR CARACAS DAILIES. ORFILA SAID HE DID NOT VIEW THE CREATION OF SELA AS CONFLICTING WITH THE OAS BUT RATHER AS COMPLEMENTING IT. HE STATED THAT SELA OUGHT TO BE AN INSTRUMENT TO UNIFY THE LATIN AMERICAN POSITION ON WAYS OF DIALOUGE WITH THE US. COMMENTING ON A POSSIBLE RESTRUCTURING OF THE OAS, ORFILA SAID HE HOPED THE OAS COULD BE CONVERTED INTO A GREAT CATALYST OF MULTILATERAL ACTION IN THE AMERICAS. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT "REITERATED THREATS" BY THE US AGAINST THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 10684 141620Z

PETROLEUM-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, ORFILA STATED, "NO ONE CAN ACCEPT

THREATS FROM ANOTHER. THE ERA OF THREATS HAS ALREADY PASSED. BESIDES, LATIN AMERICA IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS OWN STRENGTH." HE ADDED, "THOSE THREATS OUGHT NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT."

3. OAS REPRESENTATIVE JUAN CAMPOS TOLD EMBOFF OCT 9 THAT ORFILA HAD BEEN "VERY, VERY PLEASED" WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS VISIT HERE. CAMPOS SAID ORFILA AND PEREZ HAD DISCUSSED OAS DECENTRALIZATION, INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF SOME OAS ACTIVITIES TO VENEZUELA. ORFILA SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED THE TRANSFER OF THE CAPITAL MARKETS PROGRAM FROM WASHINGTON AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN VENEZUELA. CAMPOS SAID THE TWO LEADERS TALKED ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS WITHOUT GETTING DOWN TO THE DOLLARS AND CENTS OF THE MATTER. CAMPOS INDICATED THAT ORFILA DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF A GREATER FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE GOV TO OAS ACTIVITIES WITH PEREZ.

4. IT WAS THE IMPRESSION OF ORFILA'S PRESS ADVISER THAT THE GOV WAS FEELING INSECURE DOMESTICALLY WITH REGARD TO THE PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION ISSUE AND WOULD BE LOOKING FOR A "HOSTESS GIFT" IN THE FORM OF AN ENDORSEMENT OF VENEZUELAN NATIONALIZATION POLICY. WHILE NO ORFILA COMMENT CONCERNING VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM NATIONALIZATION DURING HIS VISIT WAS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA A WIRE SERVICE REPORT CARRIED A STATEMENT ORFILA MADE IN WASHINGTON OCT 9. COUNTERING A QUESTION ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ENGAGING IN A CAMPAIGN OF EXPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, ORFILA REPORTEDLY CITED AS AN EXAMPLE "THE RESPONSIBLE MANNER IN WHICH THE VENEZUELAN HAVE CARRIED OUT THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WITH REGARD TO THEIR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY." THE PRESS ADVISER ALSO TOUCHED ON THE SUBJECT OF A LATIN AMERICAN SUMMIT MEETING IN APANMA IN 1976 IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIMON BOLIVAR'S AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS OF 1826.

5. THE ADVISER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE VENEZUELAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.  
SHLAUDEMAM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CARACA10684  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750356-0195  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OAS SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS VENEZUELA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, VE, OAS, (ORFILA, ALEJANDRO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006